



NEWS RELEASE  
*Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska*  
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December 11, 2008

United States Attorney Joe W. Stecher and the Federal Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Internal Revenue Service and the United States Department of Labor announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:** On December 10, 2008, David E. Wortman, of Grand Island, Nebraska, was sentenced to 30 months imprisonment, ordered to pay \$200,903.00 in restitution, and was ordered to forfeit \$236,728.00 to the government. The sentence, imposed by the Honorable Warren K. Urbom, Senior United States District Judge, follows Mr. Wortman's conviction for two felony offenses. He previously pled guilty to harboring illegal aliens for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain, and to engaging in a series of financial transactions, totaling \$437,632.00, which were structured in such a way as to evade currency transaction reporting requirements.

The sentence concludes a joint investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Internal Revenue Service, and the United States Department of Labor. The investigation focused on Mr. Wortman and Cloudburst Underground Sprinkler Systems, a Grand Island business owned and operated by Mr. Wortman which installs sprinkler systems and performs other lawn maintenance and snow removal services. Mr. Wortman admitted hiring undocumented workers who were unlawfully present in the United States without obtaining from them identification or any proof of employability. He admitted hiring at least 26 such individuals between October 1, 2002, and September 6, 2007. He further admitted cashing customer checks written to Cloudburst in such a way as to avoid federal cash transaction reporting requirements which pertain to all financial transactions involving at least \$10,000.00 in cash. On 45 separate occasions between September 15, 2005, and May 31, 2007, Wortman cashed groups of customer checks, ranging in number from 22 checks to 108 checks, in amounts always totaling more than \$9,000.00 but never more than \$10,000.00. These 45 structured financial transactions totaled \$437,632.00. Wortman used cash to pay his undocumented workers while paying documented employees by check.

Cloudburst was under investigation by the United States Department of Labor for failing to pay overtime to employees, as required by federal law. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Mr. Wortman agreed to pay \$200,903.00 to the Department of Labor so that it may reimburse current and former Cloudburst employees for unpaid overtime. Any current or former Cloudburst employee who feels they are entitled to such reimbursement should contact the U.S. Department of Labor.

**Name of Defendant:** David E. Wortman

**AKA:**

**Age:** 50

**City of Residence:** Grand Island, Nebraska

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty:** Harboring Illegal Aliens - 0 to 10 year imprisonment; \$250,000 fine; 3 years term of supervised release, and \$100 special assessment. Structuring Transactions to Evade Reporting Requirements - 0 to 10 years imprisonment; \$500,000 fine; 3 years term of supervised release, and \$100 special assessment

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Grand Island, Nebraska

**Location of Arrest:** N/A

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:** N/A

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:** None

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** 10/01/2002 through 05/09/2007

**Federal Arrest Date:** N/A

**Date Complaint Issued:** 09/04/2007

**Indictment Returned Date:** 09/17/2007

**Initial Appearance Date:** 09/20/2007

**Plea or Trial and Date(s):** 10/15/2007

**Sentencing Date:** 12/10/2008

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:** N/A

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:** David Piester

**Held without Bond, or Released from Custody:** Released

**In Continuous Custody Since:**

**Assigned District Court Judge:** Warren K. Urbom

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** ALE